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Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

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General Comment

I understand that there are suggestions of providing a religious exemption for these regulations, whereby employees can opt out of the requirement to provide contraception and contraceptive advice if they have a religious objection. I urge you not to cave in to such anti-health lobbying. In so far as religious exemptions will be effective, they will have the result of reducing the availability of contraception, thus almost certainly increasing the rates of unwanted pregnancies, and therefore also abortions, and facilitating the spread of sexually transmitted infections.

Anyone who for religious reasons objects to contraception is entitled to not *take* a job that requires them to provide contraception; they should not be entitled to use religious grounds for refusing to *do* their job.

As a non US citizen, these provisions do not affect me directly, but as a concerned international observer, I am keen to see the right to good health care maintained as strongly in the US as anywhere else.